

THE MEDIEVAL
MANUSCRIPTS OF TRINITY
COLLEGE, OXFORD:
A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

by
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OXFORD
THE OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
2018

consideracione dum sumus nolumus absolui. *Explicit compendium de negocio naturali.*

Thorndike and Kibre, col. 1042; *Alberti Magni opera omnia*, ed. Borgnet, vol. v, pp. 445–553. This copy with the extra section:

- (b) Fols. 294^v–305^r. *De potentiis animae*. Potentiarum anime siue uirium, alie sunt apprehensiue, alie motiue ... Temperancia est scientia uirtutum et non uirtutum et neutrorum. Fortitudo est scientia duorum et no[n] duorum et neutrorum. *Explicit iste liber. Scriptor sit crimine Liber. Amen.*

Thorndike and Kibre, col. 1078.

- (c) Fol. 305^v. Added notes. Six blocks of notes added at an early date (s. xiv). The first (whose start is partly concealed by a later *ex libris*) concerns David and Absalon. The second (Dispaes sunt in regno celorum mansiones merita singularum ... in sanctitate fulserit tantum ibi fulgebit in honore) is an abbreviated version of a phrase that appears in e.g. *PL* xxx, col. 30 and *PL* xxxiii, col. 1110. The last two are imperfect owing to loss of page area.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

- (1) Fols. 253^r–305^r. Textualis, moderate quality, small scale; heavily abbreviated. The same hand also did the rubric. (2) Notes and corrections on fols. 253^r–257^v and 304^r in a sub-Textualis. (3) Fol. 305^v, informal semi-cursive ?English hand.

DECORATION

Plain red 'P', 10 lines high, at the start of (a): 253^r. Plain red initials, 2 to 3 lines high, head sections. Red paraphs throughout. Sentence capitals stroked in red.

PROVENANCE

- (1) S. xvi^{ex}–xvii^{1/4}, Edward Villers/Villiers (inscription in a hasty cursive, fol. 305^v, upper margin: 'Sum liber Edwardi Villers'); presumably (by analogy with MS. 56) Edward Villiers I of Hothorpe, Leics (c.1574–1626). (2) S. xvii^{1/4}, Trinity College, by gift of Villiers (*teste* Library Benefactors' Book, p. 64). Bernard, p. 65, no. 1979 as MS. 42. College shelfmarks: '31' on fore-edge; '42/3' on i verso.

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Augustine, *De libero arbitrio*, *De agone christiano*; Gregory Nazianzenus (trans. Rufinus), *Liber apologeticus*

France; s. XI¹, with additions to s. XI / XII

Pl. II–IV
Fig. 22

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: low quality, generally stiff, with numerous edge cuts and (especially in quires XV–XVII) irregular smaller sheets. Arranged HF, FH. Fols. i + 148 + i (foliated '149'). Modern pencil foliation.

Size: 205–8 × 132–5 mm. Written area: 148–56 × 98–100 mm. Lines: 28–9 (space, 5 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Pricking: knife and awl (preserved in outer margin); multiple sets on the sheets in Qq. VI and XIV. Ruling: hard point; direct on to each hair side; re-rulings not uncommon. Single vertical bounding lines; first and last horizontals extended in Qq. I, IV, V, and XIX, the first two and last two horizontal rulings extended in Qq. III, VI, VIII–XVIII; the first two and the last one extended in Qq. II and VII.

Collation: I⁷ (= 8 with leaf 1 lost or cancelled); II–IX⁸; X⁶; XI⁸; XII⁷ (= 8 with leaf 7 [between fols. 91 and 92] cancelled); XIII–XIX⁸. Several (now incomplete) sequences of signatures, the numbering starting from what is now quire II (originally designated 'I'). The earliest (by scribe 1) survives in the centre of the lower margin on fols. 63^v and 71^v ('vii q' and 'viii q'). A series of hastily written roman numerals running from I to X, appears on first rectos from fols. 8^r–78^r; undatable but probably medieval. An informal 'VI' is jotted on 55^v (the final verso). Pencilled roman numerals appear on the final versos of Qq. X–XIV. There are catchwords on the final versos of Qq. XV–XVII (116^v, 124^v, 132^v). These systems distinguish the present Q. I from the rest of the book.

BINDING

Diced calf, s. xix; without the usual Trinity College armorial stamp; gold-tooled turn-ins; title of contents in gilt on spine; upper and lower edges gilded; parchment pastedowns and endleaves, from rebinding; 217 × 147 × 47 mm.

2^o folio of MS: ad beati tumulum; of main item (9^r): discimus. Sed cum

CONTENTS

Preliminaries. Fol. 1^r. Shelfmark, List of Contents [additions to formerly blank leaf]. Shelfmark and *ex libris* of Saint Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (s. xiii/xiv): Di[stinctio]. IIII. Gr[adus]. III [this number having been changed from 'IIII']. Liber S[anc]ti Aug[ustini] Cant[uariensis].

Two lists of contents: 1. the higher on the page, written by Clement of Canterbury, s. xv^{3/3}; 2. the lower, s. xii–xiv, written cumulatively by four different hands (the hand that entered 'Gregorius Nazanzenus' here also supplied the rubric to that text on fol. 112^r). Neither listing includes item (a) (Gregory of Tours); in both, the final item ((e), Marbod) is glossed 'cum a'. The oldest entry—hence the first item on the page—merely recorded, 'Augustinus unde malum'.

(a) Fols. 1^v–7^r. Gregory of Tours, *De uirtutibus S. Martini*. Defecit lingua sterilis, tantas cupiens enarrare uirtutes ... Hec ab ipsius florentii ore, ita gesta cognoui.

Excerpts from CPL 1024; PL lxxi, cols. 913–1010: Bk. I, chs. 11–12, 21, 29; Bk. III, ch. 53 + Bk. II, 43; Bk. III, ch. 8. Cf. BHL Nov. Suppl. 5618d. The remainder of fol. 7^r (also the bottom of fols. 3^r and 6^v) covered with late medieval jottings, now very faint.

Fol. 7^v blank.

(b) Fols. 8^r–94^r. Augustine, *De libero arbitrio*. Aurelii Augustini, Vnde malum: Adeodatus, Dic michi quaeso te utrum deus non sit auctor mali ... et ab hac disputatione requiescere aliquando compellit. Aurelii Augustini de libero arbitrio uoluntatis liber iii [correction in rasura] explicit.

CPL 260; PL xxxii; CSEL 74; CCSL 29, ed. W. M. Green (1970), 211–321. Added to the top of fol. 8^r, s. xv^{3/3}: Liber monasterii sancti Augustini anglorum apostoli. D[istinctio] IIII^a, G[radius] III^o.

(c) Fols. 94^r–112^r. Augustine, *De agone christiano*. Incipit liber Aurelii Augustini de agone christiano. Corona uictoriae non promittitur nisi ... coronam uictoriae

mereamur. Explicit liber sancti Augustini de agone christiano.

CPL 296; PL xl.

(d) Fols. 112^r–142^r. Gregory Nazianzenus (trans. Rufinus), *Liber apologeticus* (oratio 2). Fol. 112^r. Incipit prefatio in librum Gregorii Nazanzeni. [P]roficiscenti michi ex vrbe magnopere iniungebas ... Fol. 113^r ... qui utriusque lingue habes peritiam, magis probato. Explicit Prefatio. Incipit Liber apologeticus Gregorius Episcopi Nazanzeni, a Rufino in Latinum translatus ex Greco. Victus sum et fateor me esse superatum ... Fol. 142^r ... grex simul et pastores in iesu christo [these names marked ?for transposition] domino nostro, cui gloria in secula seculorum. Amen.

CPL 198g; CSEL 46, ed. A. Engelbrecht (1910), 3–6, 7–84; cf. CPG 3010. Preceded by Rufinus' Preface: printed CSEL 46, pp. 3–5. This copy noted in P. O. Kristeller et al. (eds.), *Catalogus Translationum et Commentarium: Medieval and Renaissance Latin Translations and Commentaries*, ii (Washington, DC, 1971), p. 131.

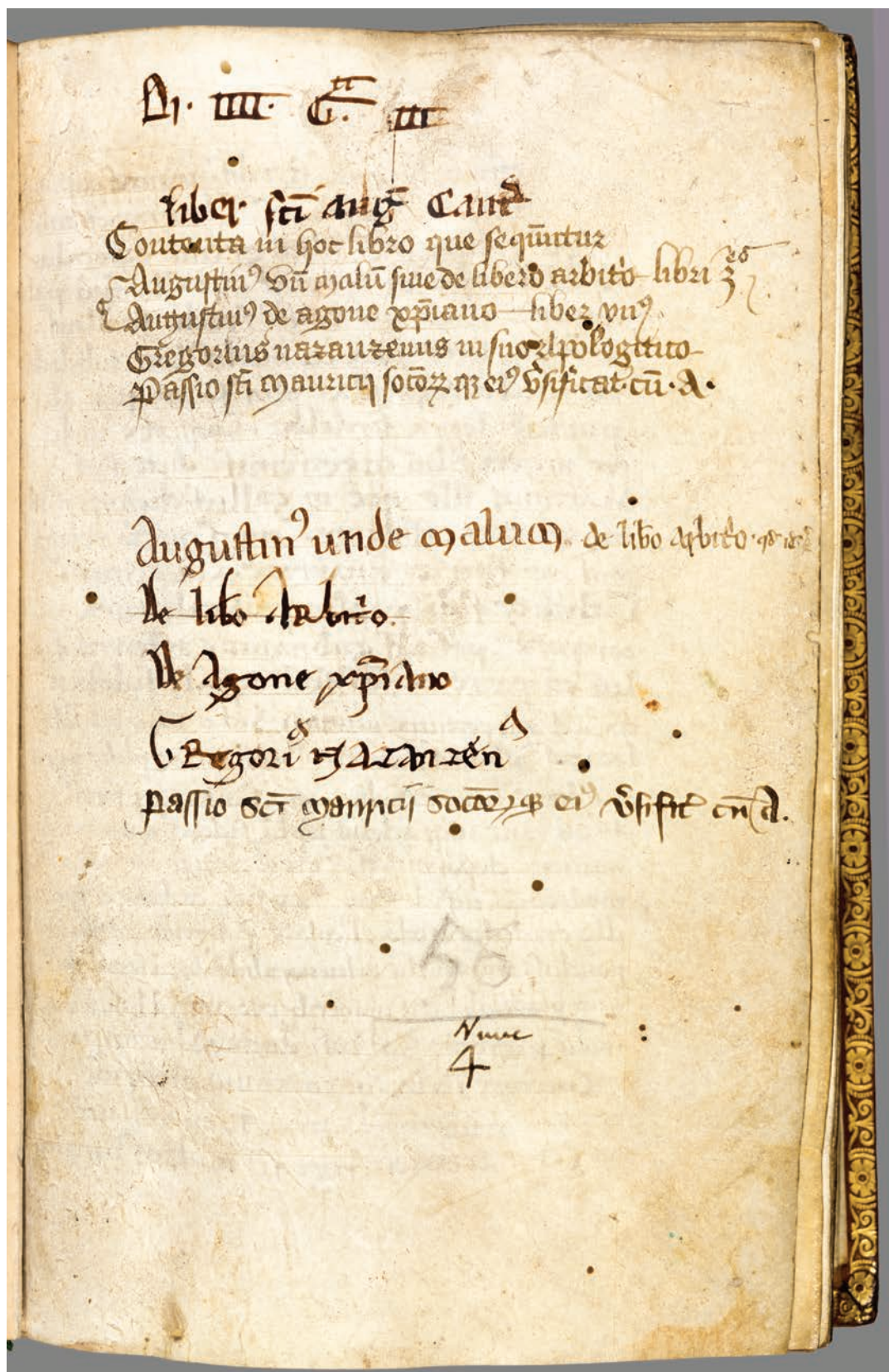
(e) Fols. 142^v–146^r. Marbod of Rennes, *Passio S. Mauricii*. Incipit passio Sancti Mauricii sociorumque eius. Dum gallos cohibere parat, quas conglomerauerat ... Premia fert eadem palma decoratus eadem. Finit Passio Sancti Mauricii sociorumque eius.

BHL, no. 5752; PL clxxi, cols. 1625–30.

(f) Fol. 148^r. Note on *Comoedia* as an art form. Fols. 146^v–148^v are blank bar various early (s. xii) jottings, including (146^v) the deleted title, 'Incipit passio', and (148^r) the three-line note, 'Commediarum nomina sumuntur a loco ... ¶ Commediarum partes sunt prologus ar[gumentu]m prosthesis ... ad iocundos exitus'.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

All the hands write a Caroline Minuscule of West Frankish/French type. Scribes 1–5 are probably s. xi¹; the others xi²⁺ (as indicated below). (1) Fols. 1^v/lines 1–15; 8^r–22^v; 24^r–112^r/9. (2) Fol. 1^v/lines 16–24. (3) Fol. 1^v/lines 24–8. (4+) Fols. 2^r–7^r. This stint may in fact represent the work of several hands. Possible subdivisions: (i) 2^r; (ii) 2^v; (iii) 3^r and 4^v–7^r; (iv) 3^v–4. (5) Fol. 23^{r-v}. (6) Fols. 112^r/line 10–bottom; 140^{r-v}. s. xi². (7) Fols. 112^v–139^v. s. xi². (8) Fol. 140^{r-v}. s. xi². (9) Fol. 141^r–142^r. s. xi². (10) Fols. 142^v–146^r (item (e)). s. xi^{4/4}–xi/xii. + Short interventions on fols. 12^r (s. xiii or later)

Fig. 22. MS. 4, fol. 1^r (actual size).

and 58^v (s. xii), adding a few words to spaces left in the text—presumably owing to a deficiency of the exemplar—by the original scribe. + Annotation by Clement Canterbury, s. xv^{3/3}—frequent up to fol. 116, rare from 117 to 137, none thereafter—including copious marginal notes, titles, running headings, pointing hands, placards (from 58^r), and scowling faces (from 97^v).

DECORATION

A simple penwork initial (red, blue, yellow), 5 lines high, marks the incipit of item (b), fol. 8^r; a plain red initial, 7 lines high, for its Book II (27^r), a slightly more elaborate red Q with foliate curls, 5 lines high, for Book III (58^r). A red 'C' with foliate curls, 3 lines high,

marks the incipit of item (c), 94^r. The spaces reserved for initials throughout item (a) and for the incipit of (d) (112^r) remained unfilled. Each verse of (e) is headed by a red Rustic Capital, the first by a slightly enlarged hybrid Uncial 'd' (142^v).

PROVENANCE

(1) Saint Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (earliest evidence: *ex libris* of s. xiii–xiv; CBMLC 13, ed. B. C. Barker-Benfield, BA 1.367; *MLGB*, p. 47). (2) Thomas Unton (d. 1693) (no. 17 on the list of his MSS: see Appendix II). Whence to (3) Trinity College by 1694. Bernard, p. 65, no. 1995 (as MS. 58). College shelfmarks: fol. 1^r, pencil '58', ink 'Nunc 4'.

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The Brut (in English)

England; s. XV^{3/4}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: very low quality; difficult to distinguish between H and F. The arrangement of sheets within quires varies. Fols. i (modern) + ii (medieval flyleaves, foliated '1'–'2') + 212 (foliated '3'–'214') + ii (medieval endleaves, '215'–'216') + i (modern, foliated '217'). Modern pencil foliation runs '1' (on the modern flyleaf), '2' and '1' (on the first medieval flyleaf), '2' (on the second medieval flyleaf), then '3'–'217'. Generally very weathered, worn, and perhaps damp-damaged. Large portions of text have scaled off many pages. A triangular portion of fol. 23 has been torn away.

Size: 219 × 150 mm (brutally trimmed, with occasional cropping of ascenders in top line of text—e.g. fols. 7^r, 92^v, 93^r). Text-block: 185 × 125 mm. Lines: 33 (space, variable—4.5–6 mm; height of minims, 1.5–2 mm). Pricking: none remains. Ruling: none visible.

Collation: the tight binding, the irregular arrangement of H and F sides, the paucity of surviving catchwords, and the fragile condition of the MS. mean that only a tentative collation can currently be offered, the structure of the first five quires being particularly uncertain. It is, however, clear that the normal form was

a quaternion (though whether wholly composed of bifolia can be difficult to say), that originally the leaves in the first half of the quire were often numbered (traces survive on e.g. fols. 72–5 and 80–3), and that there was a catchword (generally now lost but surviving on fols. 57^v and 79^v). ?I⁸ (fols. 3–10); ?II⁸ (11–18); ?III⁷ (19–25); ??IV⁸ (26–33); ?V (34–41)⁸; VI (42–7)⁶; VII (48–57)¹⁰; VIII (58–63)⁶; IX–XXI⁸ [Q. XVIII being of indeterminate but non-regular construction]; XXII¹⁰; XXIII–XXV⁸; XXVI⁶; XXVII⁶ (= 8 lacks leaves 7 and 8).

2^o folio: suster into her chambre.

BINDING

Diced calf, s. xix; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers; gold-tooled turn-ins; title of contents in gilt on spine; upper, lower, and fore-edges gilded; parchment pastedowns and endleaves, from rebinding: 229 × 163 × 53 mm. The former pastedowns (the first 2^r and 216^v) preserve clear traces of an earlier binding: turn-ins with neatly meeting corners; a series of 4 cord channels, horizontally aligned and close to the spine. Whether a green stain at the top fore-edge of fol. 2 is from a metal fixture is an open question.